PATENT COOPERATION_TREATY



REC'D 0 5 AUG 2004

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference P31080AMGO/JDB	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
International application No. PCT/GB 03/03896	International filing date (day/mor 08.09.2003	nth/year) Priority date (day/month/year) 07.09.2002		
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both E21B43/08	oth national classification and IPC			
Applicant ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY				
This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.				
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.				
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).				
These annexes consist of a total of	sheets.	and and another.		
This report contains indications rela	ting to the following items:			
I ⊠ Basis of the opinion	and to the following items.			
II Priority		·		
•	inion with regard to manufact.			
IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention	on war regard to hovelty, int	entive step and industrial applicability		
V 🛛 Reasoned statement und citations and explanation		to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;		
VI U Certain documents cited				
VII Certain defects in the inte	ernational application			
VIII □ Certain observations on t	he international application			
Date of submission of the demand	Date of co	mpletion of this report		
11.03.2004	09.08.20	004		
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:	Authorized	Officer		
European Patent Office - P.B. 581 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651	1 a .	n, A		
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	No. +31 70 340-4088		

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY **EXAMINATION REPORT**

l. Basis of the report

International application No.

PCT/GB 03/03896

1	I. W th ai	Vith regard to the elements on the receiving Office in respon Induction of the respondent in the res	of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to se to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" port since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):	
	De	escription, Pages		
	1-	14	as originally filed	
	CI	aims, Numbers		
	1-2	23	as originally filed	
	Dr	awings, Sheets		
	1/3	3-3/3	as originally filed	
2.	Wit lan	th regard to the language , a guage in which the internati	Il the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the onal application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.	
	The	ese elements were available	or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:	
	the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1/b).			
		the language of publication	of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).	
		the language of a translation Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).	on furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under	
3.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:			

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence 4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages: the claims, Nos.: the drawings, sheets:

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure

contained in the international application in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

in the international application as filed has been furnished.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

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5.

This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report)

- 6. Additional observations, if necessary:
- V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

No:

Claims Claims

3-14,18-23 1,2,15-17

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims

4-14,18-23

No: Claims

1-3,15-17

Industrial applicability (IA)

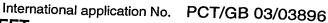
Yes: Claims

1-23

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet



Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1) In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as claimed in at least one of the independent claims does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33 (1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel.

Dependent claims can only meet the PCT requirements when related to independent claims complying with Article 33 (1) PCT.

2) The document US-A-419.606 discloses in claim 1 and in Figs. 1 and 2:

a screen system for underground wells, the screen system comprising a screen wherein the screen comprises a plurality of slots; and a mechanism capable of varying the size of the slots.

The subject-matter of independent apparatus claim 1 is therefore not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Please note that the screen system as described in US-A-419.606 is considered to be suitable for use in an underground well. Furthermore it is noted that also US-A-2.280.054 discloses the subject-matter of independent claim 1.

3) The document US-A-2.280.054 discloses in column 2, line 49 - column 3, line 2 and in Figs. 1 and 2: $\frac{1}{2}$

A method of fluid control in a well, the method comprising the steps of placing a screen having a plurality of slots in the well and varying the size of the slots.

The subject-matter of independent method claim 15 is therefore not new (Article 33(2) PCT).